

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/834,944
Attorney Docket No.: Q64103

REMARKS

General Remarks

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel Claims 1-15 and add new Claims 16-20.

Therefore, Claims 16-20 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

A telephonic interview was conducted with the Examiner on December 17, 2003. A statement of the Substance of the Interview follows.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview

In the telephonic interview conducted on December 17, 2003, Applicants' representatives disclosed that regarding the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, only the first and last pages of the Office Action had been received, and requested a new Office Action and a re-start of the statutory time period for reply. A copy of the defective Office Action was faxed to the Examiner, who acknowledged that the Office Action was defective and agreed to send a new Office Action and to restart the time period for reply.

New Claims

Applicants add new Claims 16-20 in order to more fully cover various aspects of the present invention as disclosed in the specification.

According to the present invention, enciphered use right frequency information from a management terminal apparatus is deciphered by a deciphering means in a customer terminal apparatus, and the deciphered use right frequency information is stored into a use right frequency

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information storage memory provided in the deciphering means in such a manner that the stored use right frequency information cannot be referred to from the outside. On the other hand, the deciphering means itself can refer to the use right frequency information stored in the use right frequency information storage memory to read out enciphered literary work data from a storage section, and then to decipher and signal the read out literary work data to a playback circuit so that the literary work data can be played back by a playback circuit. Applicants submit that these features of the present invention are not taught or suggested in the cited reference, Ginter et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,910,987.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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